

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following subtitles prior to the first paragraph on page 1, as follows:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

--TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1, beginning line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

--The present invention relates to a ~~method and~~ apparatus for manipulating a heavy gas.--

Please insert the following subtitle prior to the third paragraph on page 1, beginning line 9, as follows:

--PRIOR ART--

Please insert the following subtitle prior to the third paragraph on page 1, beginning line 30, as follows:

--OBJECT AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1, beginning line 30, with the following amended paragraph:

--The aim of the present invention is to develop a ~~method and~~ apparatus for manipulating a heavier than air gas, which overcomes the aforementioned drawbacks. This ~~method and~~ apparatus must be safe for operators and have economically favourable probability in use, whilst allowing speed of execution.--

Please delete the paragraph on page 4, beginning line 26, as follows:

~~--Other details relating to the method according to the invention are indicated in the accompanying claims 1 to 7.--~~

Please delete the paragraph on page 6, beginning line 21, as follows:

~~--Other details concerning the apparatus according to the invention are indicated in the accompanying Claims 8 to 18.--~~

Please insert the following subtitle prior to the fourth paragraph on page 6, beginning line 25, as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Please insert the following subtitle prior to the third paragraph on page 7, beginning line 8, as follows:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S) OF THE INVENTION--

Please replace the first paragraph on page 7, beginning line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

--As is clear from the ~~figure~~ figures, the apparatus according to the invention comprises a chamber 1 having a cavity 2 able to be closed in the example illustrated by a cover 3 capable of sliding between a closed position, depicted in Figure 1, and an open position depicted in Figure 2. The chamber 1 is open towards the top and therefore, even in the open position, the heavy gas introduced into the chamber has a tendency to remain therein by gravity.--

Please replace the last paragraph on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

--In the example illustrated, the chamber 1 is supported on a support plate 8 provided with lateral separation lugs 9. By means of these lugs, the support plate 8 can be supported and possibly fixed to the edges—9_10 of a trough 11 open towards the top, so that the edge of the plate 8 is situated peripherally at a small distance from the trough 8, leaving between them a gap 12. The plate 8 is advantageously supported by the edges 10 of the trough so as to be situated in a plane slightly lower than these. In this example embodiment, the support plate 8 carries guide bars 13, 14 which are conformed so as to receive the chamber, without enabling it to move horizontally during its use.--

Please replace the last paragraph on page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

--The apparatus according to the invention also comprises a top frame 17 which is formed from a hollow profiled section and which is simply placed on the longitudinal top 18 and 19 and rear 20 edges of the chamber. This frame is thus supported at the periphery of the upward opening of the chamber 1. Along the aforementioned three edges 18 to 20, the frame 17 has the shape of a U, the two legs 21 and 22 and the central part 23 of which project towards the inside, thus overhanging the cavity 2. The legs 21 and 22 and the central part 23 of the U are perforated downwards at preferably regular intervals. The perforations—23_24 afford communication between the chamber and the cavity 29 of the frame 17. The fourth side 25 of the frame, situated at the front, is arranged below the front part of the cover in the

closed position (see Figure 3). A plate 26 provided with a top rim 27 projects on the front side 25 of the frame through a slot 28 provided in the top face thereof. A gap is left between the front edge of the slot 28 and the plate 26 so as to allow communication between the hollow 29 of the frame 17 and the space situated between the cover 3 and the front side 25 of the frame, in front of the front edge 16 of the chamber 1. Advantageously, a narrow passage 39 is left free between the front edge 16 of the chamber and the cover 3.--